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ical sciences; the discussion regarding the classification of the various subdivisions of mathematics involves many instructive points, and constitutes a broad, general survey of the present state of mathematical research.

The chapter on instruction is also interesting and suggestive. As to the amount of primary instruction which should fall to the share of pupils, the author believes that the first elements of the sciences of number and of space should be inculcated, but not in a mechanical manner; the course should be an elastic one, the general outlines of which only should be determined. The theoretical instruction, further, should be supplemented by applications to real facts,—which applications should be few and happily chosen, rather than many and indiscriminate. M. Laisant contends that if the elements of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry were disengaged from the mass of parasitic propositions which envelop them, if they were reduced in quantity so as to embrace only the leading ideas and the essential methods, enough time would be gained and sufficiently clear ideas would be imparted to enable instructors to include in all courses leading up to University examinations the elements of analytical geometry and the infinitesimal calculus. This amount of instruction, which is thoroughly reconcilable with the requirements of a course of general culture, and which does not transcend the ordinary intelligence, is what should be expected of every educated person.

While the author makes no pretension to profundity, and does not expect that his work will throw great light on the metaphysical foundations of mathematics, his ideas are impregnated with common sense and are clearly stated; instructors and students will both profit greatly by a perusal of the book. There is a bibliography and an index.

We cannot, in conclusion, refrain from complimenting the publishers on the elegant taste they have displayed in the letter-press and especially in the binding of the volume. μ.

DAS PRINCIP DER ERHALTUNG DER ENERGIE UND SEINE ANWENDUNG IN DER NATURLEHRE. Ein Hilfsbuch für den höheren Unterricht. By *Hans Januschke*. Leipsic: B. G. Teubner. 1897. Pages, x, 456. Price, bound, 12 M.

The present work is another evidence of that reform in the methods of instruction which has replaced the old dogmatic method by a mode of exposition predominantly psychological and historical in character; it has also been noticeably influenced by the philosophical movement in science which found its expression in the works of Helmholtz, Kirchhoff, Dühring, Mach, Hertz, Boltzmann, Ostwald, and others. The aim of the author has been to demonstrate, by practical exposition, the validity of the principle of the conservation of energy in every branch of physics, to lay in this way a unitary foundation for the whole subject, and so to satisfy the educational requirements of economy and consistency. He has treated his material according to the form which it has historically taken, beginning with mechanics and hydrostatics, and proceeding through heat to electricity, magnetism and light. There is a brief introduction to the work on the subject-matter and methods of physics, and also a historical sketch of the origin and development of the principle of the conservation of energy,—sections which convey much interesting information, but contain nothing very original. The work is intended as a companion book to advanced courses in physics, and the development of the several subjects is largely couched in the language of the Calculus,—which is, however, of a very simple character. An excellent feature, which is entirely new in German books of this character, is the appending to each section of a number of examples for practice. Also, the existence of an index and the fact that the book is bound, are pleasing indications of a revolution in German book-making. The letter press in general is good, and upon the whole the author and publisher have produced a work of value.

L'ANNÉE PSYCHOLOGIQUE. Publiée par *Alfred Binet*. Avec la collaboration de *H. Beaunis*, *Th. Ribot*, MM. Bourdon, Courtier, Farrand, Flournoy, Philippe, Vaschide, and Warren. Quatrième année. Paris: Schleicher Frères. 1898. Pages, 839. Price, 15 francs.

The *Année psychologique* is now in its fourth year, and the indefatigable industry of its editor and of its collaborators has made it one of the most useful of the year-books of science. It is divided into three parts, the first of which consists of original memoirs; the second of critical reviews, digests and synopses of the most important works and articles published on psychology and kindred subjects in the year 1897; third, of a bibliographical list and description of *all* the works published on the subject during the same year. This last list has been compiled by two Americans, Drs. Warren and Farrand, and is the same as that of the *Psychological Index*. We find in this list that the number of works published on psychology and kindred subjects for the year 1897 was 2465. Of course, this includes such subjects as brain-physiology and much that properly belongs to medicine; for example, looking over the books which have been reviewed, we find the following subjects: psychogeny, comparative and individual psychology, anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, sensation, consciousness, attention and intellect, emotions, movement and volition, abnormal and pathological psychology. The original memoirs are mostly contributions of the editor, who is director of the Laboratory of Physiological Psychology at the Sorbonne, in collaboration with M. Vaschide; the two remaining contributors of original memoirs are MM. Bourdon and Leclère. The memoirs of MM. Binet and Vaschide deal principally with the psychology of school children, and record the results of experiments testing muscular force, respiration, circulation, etc., etc.